

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising:

receiving a message identifying an entity, which message requires authentication of said entity;

receiving data from each of a plurality of sources, said data representing at least a rating for said authentication according to a criteria;

analysing said received data using a set of predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate an authentication rating for said entity; ~~entity~~

said plurality of sources including a local store arranged in operation to store previous authentication ratings for a plurality of entities, and said analysis step involving combining previous authentication ratings for said entity with one or more current authentication ratings for said entity.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said data from each source comprise data representing a trust rating for said entity and data representing an associated confidence rating.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the analysis comprises:
combining said plurality of data representing a trust rating using a first predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate a combined trust rating;
combining said plurality of confidence rating data using a second predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules to calculate a combined confidence rating;
and then analysing said combined trust rating and said combined confidence rating using a third predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate said authentication rating.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A system for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a message identifying an entity, which message requires identification of said entity;

the receiving means being further arranged to receive in use from each of a plurality of sources data representing a rating of said entity according to a criteria; and
processing means arranged in use to analyse said received data using a set of predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate an authentication rating for said entity; ~~entity~~.

said plurality of sources including a local store arranged in operation to store previous authentication ratings for a plurality of entities, and said processing means being arranged to calculate an authentication rating for said entity by combining

previous authentication ratings for said entity with one or more current authentication ratings for said entity.

6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 5, said processing means being further arranged to compare said authentication rating with a predefined policy so as to determine whether to issue ~~issue~~-an authenticate signal. ~~signal~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing a computer program or suite of programs executable by a computer system to cause the system to perform the method of claim 1.

Claims 8 and 9 (Canceled).

10. (New) A computer readable storage medium containing a computer program or suite of programs executable by a computer system to cause the system to perform the method of claim 2.

11. (New) A computer readable storage medium containing a computer program or suite of programs executable by a computer system to cause the system to perform the method of claim 3.